

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

PAUL, Ron (Republican)  
Representative, 14th District, Texas  
Elected 1996 to 105<sup>th</sup> Congress  
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



### BACKGROUND

Born: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania - 20 August 1935

Home: Surfside, Texas

Marital Status: Married (Carol) - 5 children

Religion: Protestant

Education: Gettysburg College, BS, 1957; Duke Univ, MD, 1961

Military: US Air Force, 1963-65, Captain, flight surgeon; ANG, 1965-68

Profession: Physician

Political: US House, 1976-77, 1979-85; sought Republican nomination of US Senate, 1984; Libertarian candidate for President, 1988. Defeated Charles Morris (D) in 1996 general election with 51% of the vote after defeating Rep Greg Laughlin (R) in primary. Reelected in 1998 general election with 55% of the vote, in 2000 with 60%, and in 2002 with 68%.

Rep Paul, an outspoken conservative, has long believed that the Federal government should have as limited a role in the lives of Americans as possible. Is best known in Congress for his often-lonely opposition to any legislation that violates his guiding principle: that Congress can do only what is enumerated in the Constitution. Frequent critic of President's role vs Congress' role regarding War Powers.

Of the 38 votes in the 105th Congress on which there was just a single "no," Rep Paul was the lone dissenter on 27. (CQ's Politics in America, 27Oct99 Update)

In the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, remarked "For as sickening as the Serbian violence is toward ethnic Albanians, our ability to police the world and stop ethnic fighting and civil wars is limited." (USA Today, 2Apr99) Supported legislation to end draft registration. Cosponsored legislation to provide a tax credit for employers with workers who participate in the military reserves. Introduced a bill to prohibit the destruction during FY 01 of ICBM silos in the US. Offered unsuccessful amdt to eliminate the authorization of funding for UN programs. Introduced legislation withdrawing the US from the WTO and to deny funding to send troops to Kosovo without Congressional approval.

In the 107th Congress, expressed disappointment that none of his amdts to the State Dept authorization bill were permitted by the Rules Cmte; believed amdts that were allowed did not deal with whether or not the US should be as involved as it is in foreign interventionism. He was the only Member to oppose H. Res. 34, reaffirming the friendship between the governments of the US and Israel. Believed that language restating the commitment of the US to a secure peace for Israel implied vague commitments and left open the possibility that those who support it are endorsing unwise and constitutionally-suspect financial and military commitments abroad. Voted against the Iraqi war resolution and the "fast track" bill; two popular Republican measures.

In the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, argued that going to war (in Iraq) without a "clear declaration of war" by Congress then we are making a "constitutional mistake."

Additional: Charter member of Air Force Caucus.

AF Bases: None

### COMMITTEES

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